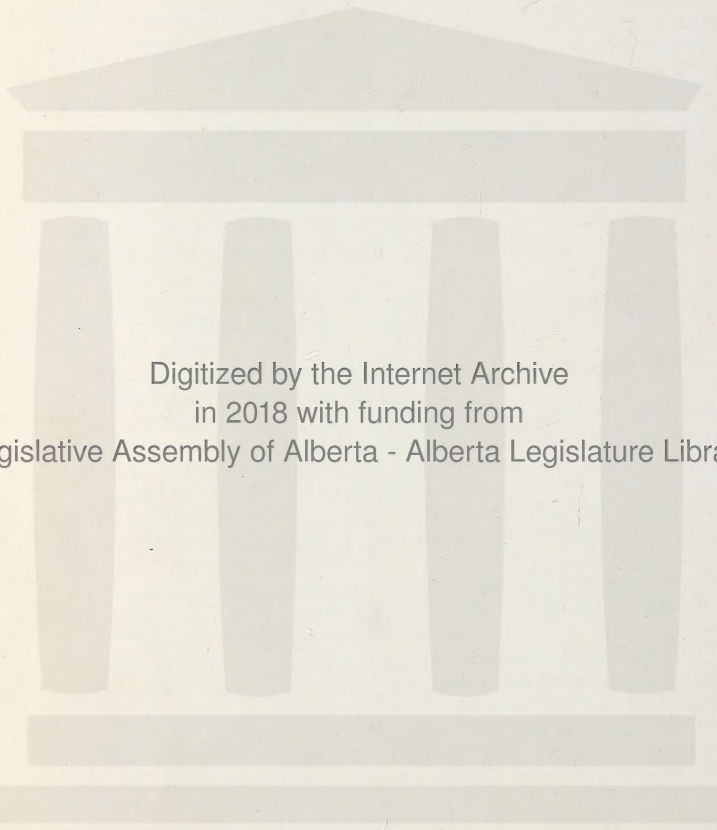


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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDENT

OF

NEGLECTED CHILDREN

OF THE

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

1916



EDMONTON

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1917

EDMONTON, Alberta, March 1st, 1917.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF ALBERTA,
Parliament Buildings.

SIR,—I have the honour herewith to submit the Eighth Annual Report of this branch of your Department, working within the provisions of *The Children's Protection Act*, *The Juvenile Courts Act* of Alberta, and *The Dominion Delinquents Act*.

In doing so, allow me to express my appreciation of the sympathetic support you have given to this branch.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. M. McDONALD.

Superintendent.

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Children in Edmonton Shelter.

THE PROBLEM OF THE NEGLECTED AND THE DEPENDENT

Conservation is one of the big words of the twentieth century. We talk quite glibly about the conservation of our natural resources; we mean, of course, our timber, mineral and land wealth. Our phenomenal natural assets would be of little value, however, if it were not for a race of honest, industrious men and women, who, by their ingenuity and enterprise, take things in their crude, undeveloped state and turn them into comforts and luxuries for the world. "Things are in the saddle, and ride mankind, they say." So wrote Emerson fifty years ago, and there are critics of the American poet who affirm that if he were alive to-day, he would say the same thing, only with tenfold greater emphasis. Yet, we see on every hand evidences that the civilized world is beginning to think more of persons, if not less of property. It is the business of this Department to conserve, as far as possible, the orphans, the children of parents who are incapable of looking after their own offspring, or who have become criminals, in order that they may have an opportunity to develop into sturdy, healthy men and women. Unless these children are given some special care, they will inevitably be lost to society.

Conserving Childhood

The Juvenile Protection Act, which gives us authority to deal with these cases, is a very comprehensive ordinance, and makes it possible to raise the protecting arm of the State over every needy boy and girl. During the year 1916, we cared for 981 dependent children. This is the largest number that

Children Cared For

has ever been placed under the guardianship of the Department in a single year. It should not be inferred that conditions in this Province are worse than formerly. We are becoming more alive to the necessity of taking action in certain cases, and the public are co-operating with us more energetically.

The cases of neglect do not vary in character to any considerable extent from year to year. In perhaps 90 cases out of every 100 it is discovered that the problem of the neglected child is the neglectful parent. Some parents are ignorant and know not how to rear a family, some are selfish and rob their children of the constant companionship and guidance necessary to their best development. A few, unfortunately, are vicious and create an atmosphere in their home that is bound to rob their offspring of moral ideas and ideals.

Some of us contemplated that with the enactment of the prohibitory legislation, there would be a large decrease in the number of dependents. There is no doubt that we had reason for this expectation. As a consequence, many families who a year ago were living in a state of absolute poverty, are to-day in comparative comfort. Money that was spent in drink is now used in pro-

Effects of Prohibition

curing groceries, clothing, boots and shoes. The legislative enactment, however, does not change human nature, and there are moral diseases even more deep-seated than the drink habit.

We have been frequently asked what is the effect of war conditions upon our work. In reply it must be said that whereas new difficulties have been created, the effect has not been as noticeable as many social workers expected. We have had a number of cases where families have been neglected owing to the fact that the fathers were in training as soldiers or fighting the battles of liberty at the front. When it is remembered that

Effects of War Conditions



Ready to Move.

there are thousands of broken families at the present time, the surprise is not that we have had to deal with a few score cases, but that the number has not been much larger. This is a tribute to the unselfish patriotism and devotion of anxious mothers, who care for their children and wonderingly wait for news from the front.

At its last session, the Legislature saw fit to increase the age under which it is possible for us to deal with a neglected child from 17 to 18 years; it would be a further safeguard if some legal supervision could be exercised for a still longer period. Notwithstanding the fact that the definition of a neglected child, as cited in the Act, has been published frequently in previous reports and in the press, there is still considerable misapprehension on the part of the public concerning it. For that reason we quote it again:

“ ‘Neglected child’ shall mean a child who is found begging, receiving ‘alms, thieving in a public place, sleeping at night in the open air,

“wandering about at late hours, associating with
Definition of a “a thief, drunkard or vagrant, or who is incor-
Neglected Child “rigible or cannot be controlled by its parents, or
“who is employed anywhere between the hours of
“ten o’clock p.m. of one day and six o’clock a.m. of the following day (as
“amended by paragraph 2, Sec. 23, Cap. 2, Statutes of Alberta, 1910), or a
“child who by reason of the neglect, drunkenness or other vice of its
“parents, is growing up without salutary parental control and education,
“or in circumstances exposing such child to an idle and dissolute life; or
“who is found in a house of ill-fame, or known to associate with, or be
“in the company of a reputed prostitute, or who is a habitual vagrant, or an
“orphan and destitute, or deserted by its parents, or whose only parent is
“undergoing imprisonment for crime, or who by reason of ill-treatment,
“continual personal injury or grave misconduct or habitual intemperance
“of its parents, or either of them, is in peril of loss of life, health or
“morality, or in respect to whom its parents or only parent have or has
“been convicted of an offence against this Act or under the Criminal Code,
“or whose home by reason of neglect, cruelty or depravity is an unfit
“place for such child, and ‘neglected children’ shall mean two or more of
“such children.”

Fortunately the paragraph is not phrased in any complicated legal terminology, and the Department will be glad to investigate any reports that are sent to us concerning children who may appear to come under the definition as given.

NUMBER DEALT WITH, 981

Sex		Under 8	
Male	415	9	41
Female	566	10	46
	981	11	55
		12	33
		13	58
		14	48
		15	80
		16	88
		17	114
		18	31
			4
			981
Age		Religion	
Under 1	119	Presbyterian	162
2	64	Methodist	141
3	43	Church of England	127
4	39	Roman Catholic	244
5	32	Greek Catholic	26
6	42	Greek Orthodox	20
7	44	Protestant	134
		Baptist	47
		Lutheran	56
		Jewish	7
		Free-thinker	1
		Salvation Army	6
		Apostolic Catholic	1
		Ruthenian	1
		Christian Science	4
		Adventist	1
		Latter Day Saints	1
		No religion	2
			981

How Placed

Placed at Work	267
Adopted	203
Returned to relatives	287
In R. C. Institutions	22
In Protestant Institutions	31
In Ruthenian Home	2
Died	23
Ran away	9
In Shelters	74
In Hospitals	60
Enlisted	2
Married	1
	<hr/>
	981

Nationality

Canadian	326	German	55
American	102	Galician	14
English	123	Half-breed	17
French	28	Cree	4
French-Canadian	9	Greek	3
Scotch	52	Negro	10
Irish	28	Swiss	1
Welsh	2	Slav	3
Russian	93	Finn	1
Austrian	42	Hebrew	6
Norwegian	13	Belgian	3
Danish	4	Dutch	5
Swedish	19	Pole	1
Ruthenian	12		<hr/>
Hungarian	5		981

Electoral Districts, From

Wetaskiwin	6	Alexandra	1
Ponoka	1	Vermilion	26
Lacombe	6	Vegreville	17
Ribstone	2	Edmonton	454
Red Deer	5	Taber	3
Innisfail	3	Wainwright	4
Stettler	7	Sedgewick	1
Coronation	9	Camrose	3
Olds	11	Leduc	2
Didsbury	2	Redcliff	2
Hand Hills	8	Medicine Hat	33
Cochrane	5	Cardston	3
Bow Valley	2	Macleod	3
Little Bow	5	Lethbridge	23
Athabasca	4	Pincher Creek	3
Grouard	7	Whitford	5
Beaver River	8	Calgary	224
St. Paul	8	Rocky Mountain	8
Sturgeon	9	Edson	4
Pembina	15	Outside Province	6
Lac Ste. Anne	10		<hr/>
St. Albert	16		981
Victoria	7		

Where Placed—Electoral Districts.

Wetaskiwin	4	Gleichen	6
Lacombe	5	High River	4
Red Deer	5	Athabasca	1
Stettler	5	Beaver River	2
Olds	9	Sturgeon	7
Hand Hills	4	Lac Ste. Anne	8

Victoria	5	Little Bow	6
Vermilion	22	Grouard	4
Edmonton	430	St. Paul	3
Wainwright	8	Pembina	7
Camrose	3	St. Albert	7
Redcliff	3	Alexandra	10
Medicine Hat	21	Vegreville	5
Macleod	4	Stony Plain	4
Lethbridge	8	Sedgewick	4
Whitford	1	Leduc	3
Peace River	2	Taber	6
Died	23	Cardston	2
Ran away	9	Calgary	163
Outside Province	32	Rocky Mountain	5
Ponoka	7	Edson	3
Ribstone	4	Pincher Creek	1
Innisfail	7	Shelters	71
Coronation	4	Hospitals	13
Didsbury	3		
Acadia	6		981
Okotoks	2		

THE DELINQUENT BOY

Effective treatment of the juvenile delinquent would eliminate perhaps 50 per cent. of our adult crime. William Healey, in his "Individual Delinquent," makes the assertion that the principal age for recruiting into the ranks of criminal life is between 15 and 20.

Depopulating Prisons

"In connection with the early impetus given to the Reformatory movement in England during the conferences of 1851, 1853, and 1861, a number of direct observations were reported. Clay, in a communication to the Earl of Shaftesbury, stated that he found 58 per cent. of criminals were dishonest before they were 15 years old. Fourteen per cent. became so between 15 and 16, and that all of them had shown their anti-social tendencies before they were 19 or 20." It is apparent that the effectual treatment of the juvenile delinquent would depopulate the prisons twenty years from now.

During the year 1916, 520 boys were tried in the Juvenile Courts of this Province for various offences, some of them apparently trifling and some very serious. Youths frequently commit crimes against persons and property with a deliberation and a coolness hardly excelled by the habitual criminal.

Effect of Abnormal Times

Our statistics show an increase of 25 per cent. over the preceding year. In this connection it may be noted that the abnormal times in which we live have made more acute the problem of juvenile delinquency. In the city of London, England, the number of young prisoners brought before the Courts for the opening three months of the year, increased from 1,304 in 1914, to 2,005 in 1916. Other reports to hand indicate that there have been increases in practically every part of the world. The causes for this may be summed up as follows: First, the decrease in parental control owing to the absence of so many fathers; second, the fact that many of the male teachers for whom the boys had the greatest respect, have joined the forces, and as a consequence little individual attention can be given; third, the spirit of adventure is in the air, children hear from their friends and relatives thrilling accounts of trench warfare and other excitements, and their love for imitation leads them into many offences.

In addition to this the old causes remain. Early street life, the exciting "movie" and the overweening desire to have things which parents or fortune denies them. It would be a mistake to suppose that these boys are necessarily or inherently bad. Many of them are among our most promising youths. The energy which if not checked or guided along proper channels may lead to a life of crime, will, if wisely directed, push them to the very front of a trade or profession. This has been amply demonstrated in the cases of a number of our so-called worst boys who, when transferred to a different home atmosphere, have "made good."

The early "teen" age is, in many respects, the crucial period in a boy's life. It is marked by great physical and mental changes, the hitherto obedient lad begins to question the authority of his parents, a thirst for freedom and adventure comes upon him, resulting in runaways from home and trauancies

The Early Teen Age

from school. He has been a child, but is one no longer; he is not yet a man, but is rapidly becoming one. The boy is struggling after self-reliance. He is often as obstinate, domineering, combative and arrogant as he is self-conscious and bashful. "This," says Dr. Hall, "is the age of delinquency." At this period there is a marked increase, not in crimes of one, but of all kinds; adolescence is pre-eminently the criminal age, when most commitments occur and most vicious careers are begun. And yet, this is the age of idealisms. The poet has said: "The boy's will is as the wind's will, and the thoughts of youth are long, long thoughts." Every boy in his 'teens has an idea of the kind of man he wants to be, and of the kind of work he wants to do when manhood is attained. Delinquency at this age cannot be dealt with by force and compulsion, there must be an appeal to what is deepest and best in boy nature. "When you seek to win a boy," said Judge Lindsay, "go after his heart"; but you can't win his heart by sending him to jail, and you can't win his heart by an act that is puerile and weak. The adolescent delinquent will respond to manly frankness, to discipline that, although stern and uncompromising, is sympathetic.

THE DELINQUENT GIRL

For some years, sociological workers have been stating that the number of delinquent girls on the Continent is steadily increasing. We are glad to report that in this Province, in spite of military conditions, there has been no marked increase in girls' delinquency. The problem, nevertheless, is acute, and the difficulty of dealing with it is great. A boy who makes a mistake is welcomed back into society, and there is rarely any difficulty in finding a good private home for him. A girl who has gone wrong has lost so much that it would be difficult to regain her place in society, even if society were as ready to welcome her as her erring brother. The fact is that she is not so welcomed.

We take the liberty of directing attention to some of the more outstanding causes of the downfall of hundreds of girls in their early 'teens. To those who have reason to

Causes of Girl Delinquency

know the dangers of the street, the restaurant and the dance-hall, the carelessness of many parents is almost beyond belief. Little girls who ought to be at home are allowed to go at all hours of the day and night in the company of young men whose reputations are unknown to the parents. It is only after an irreparable mistake has been made that some parents awake to the seriousness of the situation. In the cities there are a number of rooming-houses which have made it easy for the vicious monsters who make prey of young girls to accomplish their designs. In these places there is nothing in the nature of proper supervision. Rooms are rented without any questions being asked, and we fear that in some cases proprietors do not hesitate to blink at evidence where they can hardly be ignorant of what is going on. We have wondered if cities, in licensing rooming-houses, could not provide for a stricter supervision over them.

The dance-hall is still with us, and although credit must be given to some proprietors for the wise regulations they have made, and the careful supervision that is exercised, there are other halls where little or no care is taken. The exciting "movie," the triangle play, the joy ride, and the tendency to mistake the tinsel for the reality, are the old, but ever up-to-date, causes of girl delinquency.

We have knowledge of a number of girls who were tempted into wayward acts while engaged as general servants in private homes. "Undefended innocence" is often the prey of well-dressed villainy.

STATISTICS RE DELINQUENTS

Number handled, 560.

Male	520
Female	40
	<hr/>
	560

Age of Delinquents

Four	1	Thirteen	80
Five	4	Fourteen	74
Six	13	Fifteen	50
Seven	14	Sixteen	18
Eight	31	Seventeen	6
Nine	47	Eighteen	1
Ten	63		
Eleven	57		560
Twelve	101		

Religion

Roman Catholic	91	Baptist	39
Methodist	81	Congregationalist	6
Presbyterian	112	Greek Orthodox	8
Protestant	14	Greek Catholic	9
Church of England	98	Mormon	4
Lutheran	68	Moravian	1
Hebrew	21		
Salvation Army	8		560

Nationality

French-Canadian	11	Indian	1
Russian	14	Slav	4
English	112	Italian	7
Canadian	169	Swiss	1
American	46	Lithuanian	1
Austrian	24	Bohemian	1
German	56	Galician	2
Jewish	21	Belgian	2
Irish	10	Chinese	2
Scotch	37	Negro	7
French	7	Greek	1
Swedish	4	Ruthenian	4
Dutch	4	Pole	5
Norwegian	5		
Half-breed	2		560

Offences

Theft	270	Receiving stolen property	2
Damage to property	142	House-breaking	51
Trespassing	1	Arson	2
Attempted theft	2	False pretences	2
Assault	8	Against by-law	1
Indecent assault	6	Damage to railway	1
Indecency	1	Immoral	7
Discharging firearms	4	Breaking probation agreement	1
Attempted burglary	5	Stabbing	2
Incorrigible	44		
Theft and damage	6		560
Circulating indecent literature	2		

Disposition

Made Wards of Department	29	Returned to Parents	3
Warned	83	Sent to Convent	1
Paid damages	141	Sent to Police-court	1
Dismissed	49	Sent to Country	13
Remanded	29	Birched	10
Withdrawn	2	To Social Service Home	1
Suspended sentence	14	Detained at Shelter	4
Probation	159	Supervision	7
To Industrial School	8		
Fined	5		560
Church of England Mission	1		

Electoral Districts, From

Edmonton	191	Athabasca	3
Calgary	229	Stettler	2
Medicine Hat	68	Lacombe	5
Lethbridge	6	Rocky Mountain	6
Cardston	2	Wetaskiwin	2
Alexandra	1	Whitford	2
Taber	15	Bow Valley	2
Vermilion	6	Claresholm	1
Lac Ste. Anne	6	Vegreville	1
Grouard	1	Morinville	2
Peace River	3		
Coronation	1		
Victoria	5		
			560

COUNTRY CASES

The organization of the Department draws a very distinct line between work in cities and that in smaller towns and sparsely settled communities. In the cities, Probation Officers are provided at the expense of the municipality, and the work is under the direction of the Children's Aid Societies. Similar duties in the country are undertaken by officers engaged directly through the Department.

The experience of 1916 was to the effect that whilst the number of city cases far exceeded the number of those in the country, the most acute cases of crime against children and of positive neglect, were discovered in the outlying districts. In the cities there are well-organized societies and agencies, and before a family difficulty reaches its worst stage some individual or organization reports to the proper authorities. In the sparsely settled districts the worst instances of neglect or cruelty continued for months or even years before they were discovered, or at least before any report was made concerning them. We are not as yet far from our pioneer days. In some of the frontier districts there are to be found people who moved from older settled communities in Eastern Canada and the States, feeling that they might live in comfortable security in the "wild and woolly west," only to discover that western law penetrates to frontier districts.

Early in the year a case was reported to us by the Officer commanding the R.N.W.M.P. at Calgary. There were six children in the family, their ages were 12, 9, 7, 4, and twins 1 year. The woman was married some years ago, and by her husband had one child. Later, she left her husband and went to live with another man. The man, woman and six children lived in a filthy shack 12x14; there was only one bed and seven blankets in the place. In this case, the man was prosecuted for contributing to the neglect of the children, and was sentenced to sixty days' imprisonment in the provincial gaol. In that home the children had witnessed the most degrading scenes; their minds were saturated with evil. This is but one of a score of such cases.

There are also in the country districts some very serious cases of delinquency. Two-thirds of the boys and one-half of the girls detained in institutions are from the country.

In many rural sections there is a lack of sane and wholesome amusement. If there is a real necessity in city conditions behind

Need of Wholesome Amusement

the agitation for social centres, there is equal urgency for the same kind of thing in the country. In the centres of population something can almost always be found to engage the attention without distracting the mind. In some country districts the dull and dreary monotony is seldom punctuated by an

uplifting entertainment or amusement of any sort. Fortunately "The Rural Church a Social Centre" is becoming the slogan of some bodies. Smaller towns and villages should seek to provide social centre buildings and playgrounds. Athletic sports, social clubs and entertainments, with some colour to them, would save the boys and girls who go wrong because they have nothing else to do. They would make country life livable, help to offset the deplorable exodus to the city, and give strength to the "back to the land" movement.

During 1916, 252 cases from the country were brought before the Courts, of this number 159 being prosecuted under *The Children's Protection Act*, and 93 under *The Juvenile Delinquents Act*. In addition to these figures, numerous cases were investigated and adjusted by our Inspectors without formal legal action.

INSPECTION

When a report is made to a Children's Aid Society or to the Department, by school-teacher, police official, or private individual, it is the duty of some official to make investigation into the conditions surrounding the home in question. It would be difficult to imagine a more delicate task than that involved in some of these investigations. Of the first importance is the suitability of the person to undertake the task; he or she must have a temperament calculated to develop friendly co-operation with parents and children. It is a matter of common-sense observation that some persons are especially equipped to bring out the best in others, and that is a prime necessity in this work.

A Delicate Task

If the officer be wise, many difficulties can easily be adjusted out of Court. Officers and agents of the Department and Societies are given to understand that they are not expected to make a record in Court cases, that their business is primarily to adjust family difficulties, to assist in remedying bad home conditions and in every way to exert their power to make life happier and better for the children in whom they are interested.

In addition to possessing an exceptional amount of tact, these investigators should be good students of human nature. When real difficulties arise in a home, the inmates are not likely to divulge all the story, indeed many of them prove to be adepts in concealing the facts. If the officer is easily hoodwinked, he will mistake many a villain for a saint, and will come away feeling that his work is accomplished, whereas it has never really begun. He should also know how to adopt an impersonal attitude, he should show no vindictiveness, and should be ready even when presenting a case to a Juvenile Court Commissioner to give the family the benefit of any doubt which may be in his mind. His examination and evidence should be altogether impartial; no matter what the treatment he received, he should show no resentment. The ability to ask pertinent questions, probe into home affairs, reprove and rebuke, and still leave the inmates of the home feeling friendly towards him and his work, may seem like a difficult task, but some of our officers, at least, have shown exceptional ability for this work.

Qualifications of a Probation Officer

"Thorough" is the word that investigating officers should take as their motto. Halfway investigations lead to wrong conclusions. An injustice may be done to a parent or child simply because the officer has only learned half the truth.

Our Inspectors are also charged with the duty of visiting foster homes. Their reports indicate that ninety per cent. of these are first-class, five per cent. are doubtful, and in about five per cent. children have to be moved to other homes.

Foster Homes Visited

INSPECTOR'S REPORT

A. M. McDONALD,

Superintendent of Neglected Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

SIR,---

In connection with the work under my supervision, I have pleasure in reporting that insofar as foster-homes are concerned, my inspection during the past year shows that conditions are very satisfactory, and that children are being well cared for.

Quite a number of complaints have been investigated, due to apparent neglect on the part of parents, and where necessary proceedings have been taken against those responsible.

In addition we have investigated cases of delinquency, and dealt with the same under the provisions of *The Delinquent Children's Act*, and where possible have insisted on the restoration of articles stolen, and compelled the parents to make good, in cases of wilful damage to property.

I have not given a comparison of the mileage travelled or cases investigated with those of other years, but this information is readily obtainable from the reports submitted by me and on file in the Department.

In conclusion I may say that I find the work of this Department is becoming known throughout the Province to such an extent that almost immediately a case of neglect becomes known it is reported to the Department, thereby assisting us to a great extent in our work, and at the same time manifesting the appreciation of the people of the Province in our efforts to better conditions for the child and the home.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed) A. R. BROOKE,
Chief Inspector.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES

Men and women possessed of any degree of heart power, find it difficult to resist the appeal of needy children. During the last two years and a half, the good people of every community, accustomed to giving, voluntarily, services to worthy objects, have responded to a great many calls. As a consequence, some very worthy enterprises undertaken in peace times have been neglected. We are glad to report that there has been little, if any, falling off in connection with the work of the Children's Aid Societies. War

The Appeal of the Needy Child



Children's Aid Officer Taking Neglected Children to Shelter

times have added considerably to the responsibility imposed upon these organizations, but they have been met in a spirit of sympathy and kindness. The societies in the larger cities of the Province are fortunate in that they are not harassed with any financial problems. *The Children's Protection Act* provides that the city shall maintain a Shelter, and pay the salaries of a sufficient num-

ber of agents or Probation Officers. This means systematic provision instead of the haphazard system of donations so largely followed in other places. The burden imposed upon the city is a comparatively small one. In no case would the amount required to maintain children's work be more than one-eighth of a mill on the assessment.

In addition to the work specifically provided for by the Act, there is a good deal of service rendered to children and parents who are having an exceedingly hard time of it. For instance, in the City of Edmonton, the Children's Aid Society is at the present time maintaining, by voluntary contributions, assisted by a grant from the City, a Day Nursery under the care of Miss Baird. The majority of the children in it come from broken homes. By this means families are kept intact while the parent has an opportunity of laying the foundation of a new home.

Special Service Rendered



One Cause of High Infant Mortality Rates

Although the system of requiring cities to make provision for the work of the Children's Aid Societies has its unquestionable advantages, it also has its weaknesses. I have before me the last Annual Report of the Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg. It contains a long list of contributors ranging all the way from \$1 to \$25. These people have been approached and given some insight into the work which the Society is accomplishing. As a result their interest is aroused, and that interest is bound to show itself not only in giving donations, but in continual co-operation with the work of the Society.

The Alberta Societies will have to guard against the danger

of thinking that because funds are provided by the municipality, there is no great need of the active co-operation of any large number of citizens. In order to effectually deal with the work committed to them, the Societies should have in them a great amount of heart power. They should also supply volunteer workers, men and women who would take particular interest in particular families or children. Paid assistants can do an endless amount of good, but the rehabilitation of a home, or the reformation of a child can be more readily accomplished by the direct interest of some person who can give a considerable amount of time to the particular case in hand.

A Danger to Be Avoided

The reports from the various Societies will indicate the good work that has been done. In some cases criticism has arisen; the

When Criticism Arises

surprise is that these are not more numerous. The kind of work which is undertaken by the agents and officers of these societies, is such as to provoke antagonism and opposition. They deal with the most vicious and degraded characters of the community. It is frequently necessary to take action that interferes with home life and private affairs. We wish to commend the tact and diplomacy with which the officers of these societies have fulfilled their objective during the past year.

There is one branch committed to the care of this organization on which more emphasis might be laid. Comparatively little has been done in the way of public instruction.

Need of Education

Only a small percentage of the people in any city have any idea of the volume of work that is being done, or have any knowledge of the reason of juvenile dependency or delinquency, or have studied any of the preventive constructive methods. We believe that the societies could do much more in this line if they would command the use of the pulpit and the press as a means of enlightening and educating the public.

Past experience has shown that a regularly organized Children's Aid Society in a small town or village, has not sufficient work to keep the interest alive. Sometime it is unwise that even a large committee should be acquainted with the cases with which it is necessary to deal. A discussion of family difficulties by the people of the neighborhood tends only to create trouble. In some of these places we have small committees selected; these have co-operated with the Department in a commendable manner.

Mr. Kelso, the Superintendent of the Department of Neglected Children in Ontario, one of the pioneer workers of this country, has given a motto to the societies of that Province, which we take the liberty of quoting here:

A Good Motto

"To save the home without breaking it up.

"To provide a home for a homeless child.

"To wisely build the nation of to-morrow.

"To prevent prisons being filled by reforming the boy and girl outside of the Reformatory.

"To be a real parent to a neglected child, studying its interest and encouraging it in the line of good citizenship."

REPORT OF AGENT OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY, CALGARY

(A. D. McDONALD)

A. M. McDONALD,

Superintendent of Neglected Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

SIR,—

I beg to submit herewith a brief report of our Society for the year ending December 31st, 1916.

The year was one of marked activity and steady development. No effort was spared to increase the efficiency of the work, and promote the general interests of the Society. As a result many little ones were placed in good Christian homes to grow up in an atmosphere of affection and sympathy. Many others were rescued from fatal temptations and started along the line of a better life. Others again who were yielding to the influences of bad environment were given a chance to make good under changed and helpful conditions.

It would be hard to over-estimate the value of the country home in relation to this Department of our work. We are receiving many en-

The Country Home a Valuable Asset

couraging letters from boys and girls whom it was found necessary to remove from the glamour and temptations of city life. There was one boy in particular who gave us a world of trouble. He was not naturally bad, but was continually getting into difficulties and becoming delinquent. The worst of it was, he was leading a younger brother into vagrancy habits and wrong-doing. The home conditions were not good; there was a step-mother in the case, which did not improve the situation for the boy. He had been up before the Juvenile Court many times. The resources of the Society were exhausted on him, and naturally we began to look upon him as a fit subject for the Reform School. A fine gentleman from the country arrived one day, looking for a boy to help him about the home. It was providential. The boy was given the chance, the farmer promising to take a special interest in him. Nothing could have turned out more satisfactory. The boy is making good under changed and helpful environment. Similar stories could be told of girls going wrong here and placed in good country homes.

The Value of the Child

The child is the hope of the future. There never was a time when the value of the child as a national asset was more thoroughly appreciated. Irrespective of the circumstances of its birth, the Society is realizing, as never before, that every child is entitled to a fair chance, and not as a matter of charity, but of right.

The great war in which our nation is taking so prominent a part is introducing many new problems in relation to the home and the child, which call for the most serious consideration. The Children's Aid Society, in keeping with its high aims and ideals is taking a deep and practical interest in meeting the situation thus created.

As regards the ordinary neglected or homeless child, the aim is to provide protection and a good home. As regards the delinquent, the aim is to check the delinquency and win the erring one to a love of what is right and true. "It is better to make good citizens than to punish criminals." In line with this principle, the great aim of our Society is to give every boy and girl a chance of becoming a good citizen, by checking evil influences and providing wholesome environment.

Juvenile Court

The following is a statistical record of the cases dealt with each month for the last three years:—

	1914.	1915.	1916.
January	5	9	6
February	27	32	11
March	34	26	34
April	35	17	27
May	65	30	45
June	57	23	61
July	30	35	29
August	50	13	28
September	38	51	27
October	64	9	14
November	24	30	19
December	23	23	19
	452	298	320

The total number of cases dealt with was 320, as compared with 452 and 298 for the years 1914 and 1915.

The number of delinquency cases was 204, 181 males and 23 females. The remaining 116 cases were mostly ordinary cases of neglect. Forty-one children were made Wards of the Society by Court's Order. Seventy were put on probation. Two boys were committed to the Industrial School at Portage la Prairie for an indefinite period.

There were 84 sessions of the Court held, the presiding judges being Dr. John McDougal, F. D. Beveridge, J. M. Sharpe, for the boys' cases; and Mrs. R. R. Jamieson and Mrs. Fred Langford for the girls' cases. A most important element in the Juvenile Court system is the personality of the Judge, and it would be indeed hard to find a group of men and women anywhere more thoroughly devoted to the work, or better fitted for it, than are the judges who every week preside at the sittings of our Juvenile Court. The Society and the citizens generally owe much to the work and influence of these Juvenile Court Commissioners.

It is hardly necessary to mention that very many cases came before the Society that are not included in the figures given above. Some of the best work being done by the Society is in the settlement of cases out of Court.

Newsboys

There were 219 licenses issued to newsboys. Very few of these licenses had to be cancelled. Mr. Royce, who had virtual command of this little army of news-vendors, is to be congratulated on the general good behavior of the boys.

Probation

Some 70 boys were placed on probation and required to send in formal reports from parents and teachers. Valuable help was received from Mr. Sharpe of the Y.M.C.A. and the Juvenile Court Committee. The results were very satisfactory.

Our Roll of Honour

We have now 34 of our boys on the Honour List. In last year's report 22 were mentioned as having enlisted in the service of their King and Country. Since then 12 more have joined. At least one has made the supreme sacrifice, and several others have been reported as wounded or missing.

The Girl Problem

There were 12 cases prosecuted re offences against young girls. The charges were laid under *The Juvenile Delinquents Act*, Section 29. Seven convictions were obtained.

This work continues to receive careful attention. There were 92 cases treated during the period of this report. The principal treatments or operations were for eyes, nose, teeth, tonsils and adenoids. The special thanks of the Society are due to Dr. R. B. Deane, Dr. A. T. Spankie, Dr. A. E. Hennigar and Dr. J. E. MacDonald, who have been ready whenever called upon to devote their time and skill to the needy children.

Medical Treatment

The staff at the Shelter at the present time consists of a Matron, Assistant Matron, Night Nurse, Cook, Housekeeper, 2 Domestic and a Janitor. Miss M. L. Clint who was appointed Matron on September 30th, 1914, is still in charge, and is proving herself to be a most capable head of the institution. Miss Parrott, appointed by the School Board some three years ago, is still in charge of the school work at the Shelter, and is as deeply interested as ever in her little charges. The average daily attendance was a little over 20.

The health of the children has on the whole been remarkably good. On account of an unfortunate outbreak of chicken-pox in November, it was found necessary to place the Shelter under quarantine. The Health Department were unable to provide isolation elsewhere. Some 23 cases, all of a mild character, developed. The quarantine, however, made it necessary to secure private homes for a number of children who had come into our hands and needed the protecting care of the Society.

The following statistical summary in relation to the work will be of interest:

Aggregate number cared for, Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.....	570
In Shelter, Jan 1st, 1916	36
Admitted during the year	197
Discharged	195
Placed in foster homes from the Shelter.....	35
Returned to parents	96
Hospital (tonsils)	28
Hospital (adenoids, etc.)	17
Social Service Home	1
Placed at work	8
Died	4
Ran away	4
Taken to Edmonton	1
Salvation Army Home	1
Cared for outside of the Shelter	22
Placed in foster homes outside of Shelter	12
Government charges	26

There were 223 visits made to homes, pool-rooms and other places, under the supervision of the Society.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The following is a statement of receipts and disbursements for the year ending December 31st, 1916:—

Receipts

Cash on hand, December 31st, 1915	\$ 4.86
Cash in Bank, December 31st, 1915	601.14
	<hr/> \$ 606.00
City of Calgary—Grant, 1915	1,500.21
City of Calgary —Grant, 1916	9,200.00
	<hr/> 10,700.21

Refunds—

Parents	1,546.88
Government	1,366.76
Sundry	380.29
	<hr/> 3,293.93
Donations and membership fees	166.94
Sale of work	34.95
Receipts from Tag Day	975.00
Sundries	1.05
Bank overdraft	474.63
	<hr/> 16,252.71

Disbursements

Salaries (Office)	\$4,945.00
Salaries (Shelter)	3,641.03
	<hr/> \$ 8,586.03

Groceries, Hardware, etc.	\$1,072.64	
Milk and Cream	589.62	
Butter	156.00	
Bread	296.07	
Meat	243.24	
Ice	91.80	
		\$2,449.37
Clothing, Boots, etc.	992.16	
Laundry	289.70	
Drugs	135.19	
		1,417.05
Fuel and Light	1,244.92	
Telephones, etc.	129.30	
Printing, Stationery and Advertising	54.02	
Repairs and Renewals	256.82	
Travelling Expenses	30.00	
Interest	22.20	
Rent	116.00	
Transportation	15.85	
Labour, Cartage, etc.	288.35	
		2,157.46
Keep of Girls, Social Service Home	209.50	
Keep of Calgary children at outside points	385.50	
Keep of children outside Shelter	377.00	
		972.00
Furniture and Fixtures	195.00	
Sundry Disbursements at Office and Shelter	464.39	
Cash on hand	11.41	
		671.80
Total.....		\$16,252.71

Estimated expenditure for 1917, \$17,448.00.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) A. D. McDONALD.

Agent Children's Aid Society.

REPORT OF AGENT OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY, EDMONTON

(THOMAS S. MAGEE)

A. M. McDONALD,

Superintendent of Neglected Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

SIR,—

In submitting my Annual Report I wish to point out that last year was another busy one with our Department.

I regret to have to report that an increase of about 13 per cent. has taken place on the delinquent side of the work, and that on the basis that our population is the same as it was last year. We had looked for an improvement in all directions from the abolition of the bar, but, sad to relate, delinquency among children has increased to the extent shown.

There has been no change in the staff that would account for the increased figures. I am, however, pleased to be able to report a decrease of 17½ per cent. in the case of neglected and dependent children coming under the notice of the Department.

I am very glad indeed to report the cordial co-operation of the Matron and her entire staff and my two lady officers during the year. This is very satisfactory to me personally, as work cannot be efficiently performed where there is any friction. I hope I have at all times treated them with the same courtesy that they have all extended to me.

Now, to deal with the figures representing the work as tabulated below. I wish to state that I made 2,680 investigations, enquiries, etc.; 225 escorts of children to and from trains, courts, etc., and served 240 summonses during the year.

Court statistics are as follows:—

JUVENILE DELINQUENTS DEALT WITH IN EDMONTON

Males	189
Females	12
	201

Offence		Ages of Delinquents	
Housebreaking	40	Seven	3
Theft	104	Eight	8
Damage to property	16	Nine	16
Assault	6	Ten	22
Incorrigible	23	Eleven	24
Indecent assault	3	Twelve	30
Receiving stolen property ...	2	Thirteen	32
False pretences	3	Fourteen	33
Discharging firearms	3	Fifteen	16
Against Bylaw	1	Sixteen	11
	201	Seventeen	6
			201

Number of adults charged with contributing to delinquency.....	5
Convictions	3
Dismissed	1
Withdrawn	1
	5

Children's Protection Act

Number charged as neglected children	175
Number made Wards of Department	156
Number dismissed	19
Number of adults charged with contributing to neglect	39
Number convicted	33
Number dismissed	3
Number withdrawn	3
Adult charged with interfering with Ward	1
Convicted	1

Other Offences by Adults

Offence. \	Convictions.	
Incest	1	1
Carnal knowledge	4	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	5	5

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) T. S. MAGEE,

Agent Children's Aid Society.

REPORT OF PROBATION OFFICER AT MEDICINE HAT

(LESLIE V. B. MAIS)

A. M. McDONALD,

Superintendent of Neglected Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

SIR,—

I beg to submit the enclosed detailed report as requested for the year ending December 31st, 1916. You will perceive that the work is still increasing, and that the city has considered it wise to appoint a Woman Probation Officer, who has found plenty of work to do taking care of the girls, helping families with advice, and in securing both temporary and permanent homes for children in whom we are interested. A number of petty cases were handled out of the Juvenile Court. In these instances



Medicine Hat Shelter Completed in 19 6

it was considered that the parents would respond to advice and admonition. The results in the majority of instances justified this view. Unfortunately there are too many parents who still allow their children to be on the streets up to a very late hour.

In at least one case where action was taken against the parent for contributing to the delinquency, the goods stolen by the child were actually used by the parent without any endeavor to discover where the things came from. I had warned the person only a few weeks before to report at once if the child again brought home goods that had probably been stolen. The six months' suspended sentence this party received will, I trust, prove a warning to others to be more careful about finding out where their children get goods that they bring home.

It is to be hoped that the Province will have a Home for mentally deficient children at an early date, for it is sad to see such children growing up and nothing being done for them. It is a danger to the community.

In the cases of some of the girls made over to the Department, the mothers' conduct was such that the girls could not possibly grow up decent women, but unfortunately the necessary absolute proof is hard to obtain, so that many guilty persons go free.

The increased number of Orders of Delivery to the Department has been caused by our having to take care of children whose parents' health had given way. In one case alone six little children are being taken care of owing to the mental illness of their mother. Reports on the woman's condition indicate a possibility of her complete recovery.

We have to thank Mayor Hawthorne and the City Council for the completion of the Shelter this year. It has been finished in a plain but substantial manner, after studying how Calgary and the Lethbridge Homes were fitted up. Medicine Hat has now a Home for neglected children that she can be proud of, and compares favourably with the others in the Province. There are already fifteen children under the care of the Matron. At present the staff consists of the Matron and Housekeeper, with occasional help as required by circumstances.

The children who have been placed out during the year have all been found excellent homes, and the foster-parents appear to be devoted to their adopted little ones, and it is a pleasure to observe the loving care that is lavished on them.

We were fortunate this year in securing a conviction and sentence of two years and one-half against a man who had abducted a girl of fourteen years of age from another Province. We have to thank the Honorary Solicitor of the Children's Aid Society, Mr. Blackstock, for taking up the case for us.

Thanks are due to the doctors of the City for their services on behalf of our wards. They all gave their services gratuitously.

Some plan of providing a "Creche" or Day Nursery for infants, where they would be looked after while their mothers were out earning a living for the family, would prevent children of school age from being brought up with little or no education, as is the case in some families at the present time. This is done in older communities, and has proved successful.

Mr. Rae, the Juvenile Court Commissioner, has devoted a lot of time to the cases brought before him, and his kindly and salutary advice to the parents and the children is certainly bearing fruit.

Inspector Shoebottom, of the R.N.W.M.P., has very kindly investigated all country cases which have been reported to me, and taken the deepest interest in the work of the Society.

The Society owes a special debt of gratitude to the Medicine Hat News for the way it has so liberally devoted space in its columns to awake an interest in the public regarding the work of the Children's Aid Society.

Statistics

Interviews and visits	1870
Children placed in foster homes	12
Children placed out (temporarily)	43
Cases reported	106
Juvenile Courts held	39
Orders of Delivery	32
Police-courts attended	13
Charges against Juveniles	71
Charges against adults	62
Temporary homes found (not Wards)	6
Applications for children	50
Children sent to Shelters	19
Meetings attended	21
Children put on probation	4
Charges under School Attendance Act	8
Convictions under same	7

Transfer of guardianship to Department.....	5
Number of neglected children before Juvenile Courts.....	28
Number of delinquents before Juvenile Courts	71
Deaths	1
Girls made over to Department	20
Boys made over to Department	12
Foster homes found	8
Working out (girls)	3
Working out (boys)	2
Returned to relatives	6
Truants	31
Letters received	400
Letters written	400

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) LESLIE MAIS.

REPORT OF PROBATION OFFICER AT LETHBRIDGE

(WILLIAM LAMB)

A. M. McDONALD,
Superintendent of Neglected Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

SIR,—

I beg to submit herewith brief report of the work done in Lethbridge during the year 1916, in connection with children's work:—

Regular Staff

Probation Officer.....William Lamb
Matron Miss G. A. Dainty
Maid.

Cases Handled by Juvenile Court Commissioners.

W. V. McMillan, Esq., and
J. D. Higinbotham, Esq.

The number of cases brought before the Commissioners was eight, all of these being on account of thefts. They were disposed of as follows:—

Placed on Probation	3
Placed at work to discharge indebtedness.....	3
Sent to Industrial School	2

Cases Handled Out of Court.

The Probation Officer adjusted out of Court matters relating to 148 cases, details as follows:—

Damaging property,
Fighting in the street,
Ringing Fire Alarm,
Disorderly conduct and mischievousness.

Regarding the first mentioned, all damage was made good by the culprit, or by their parents, which was considered a satisfactory adjustment. Twenty-two children picked up on the streets were returned home.

Children Admitted to Home and Their Disposal

The number of children admitted to the Home during the year totalled thirty-four, these being disposed of as follows:—

Children admitted to Home in 1916	34
Children in Home December, 1916	3

Discharged

Foster Home	9
Domestic Service	1
Sent to parents	9
Industrial Training School	1
Social Service Home	1
Boys ran away	2
Sent to Home of Correction	1
Boys sent to work on a farm	2
Children admitted and still in home	8
	—
	34
Children added during 1916	8
Children in Shelter at end of 1916	11

Religion

Roman Catholic	8
Lutheran	6
Salvation Army	3
Baptist	4
Greek Catholic	2
Methodist	2
Presbyterian	2
Religion unknown	10

Ages

1 year and under	6
2 years and under	2
4 years and under	2
6 years and under	2
7 years and under	2
8 years and under	3
9 years and under	4
11 years and under	1
12 years and under	2
13 years and under	4
14 years and under	4
15 years and under	4
16 years and under	1

Nationalities

Russian	6
German	4
Hungarian	4
Slav	4
English	4
Scotch	4
American	4
Norwegian	3
Austrian	2
Icelander	1
Swiss	1

Finance

Nett Appropriation for the year 1916	\$2,469.40
Expenditure	\$3,827.20
Income	1,681.90
	<hr/>
	\$2,145.30
Actual Expenditure	2,145.30

Inside the estimate, being approximately 87%\$ 324.10

Children's Shelter

	Income.	Expen- diture.
January	\$ 45.25	\$228.40
February	82.25	247.66
March	70.45	389.61
April	111.45	284.54
May	103.20	205.35
June	100.85	361.44
July	137.00	284.14
August	136.45	234.87
September	136.45	366.73
October	133.10	326.92
November	198.55	525.16
December	426.90	372.38

Our expenditure exceeded our estimate by \$187.80, and our income more than counter-balanced this, being over \$481.90.

Trusting that the foregoing will meet with your approval.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) WILLIAM LAMB.

Probation Officer.

JUVENILE COURTS

The Juvenile Court system has been so generally adopted on this continent that it is difficult for us to believe that twenty years ago it was scarcely known. Several cities have claimed the honour of being the first to establish a separate tribunal for the trial of juveniles. The fact would seem to be that for a considerable period judges and other officials were cognizant of the need of some such institution. Here and there thoughtful judges and presiding magistrates had introduced on their own initiative separate and private hearings in juvenile cases. For this reason it was not difficult to make separate hearings compulsory. To-day, there are few communities who think it wise or just to confine juvenile offenders in the same institution with adult criminals, or have them tried in the same court or in any way to place the stigma of disgrace upon them. Seldom in these days is an arrest made or contemplated, and then only in extreme cases, or at the request of parents or near relatives. The hearing is in the interests of the child and not against him. In our Alberta courts it is simplicity itself. All formality and technicality are sacrificed to get at the truth, and this, not for the purpose of punishing the child, but in order, if possible, to save him.

It would be impossible for us to describe the variety of cases that come before such a court. One day it turns itself into what might be known as a court of domestic relations. The difficulties between parents that are causing the neglect of children are looked into, and very frequently some adjustment is made that means the keeping of the home intact. Sometimes it is an unmarried mother who finds it impossible to keep her child, who appears to make her statement and ask that the child be taken over by the Society or the Department of Neglected Children for adoption. Sometimes it is a boy who has committed some petty theft, or otherwise transgressed against the law. Sometimes it is a little girl who has fallen almost before she could be expected to realize the seriousness of such an act. Again, there may be older offenders, and their offences may call for a little sterner punishment. Not infrequently, parents or guardians are charged with contributing either to the neglect or delinquency of their children. During the last year 104 of these cases were tried. In all some 1,541 cases were tried by the 86 Juvenile Court Commissioners at various points in the Province.

The value of such a tribunal largely depends upon the tact and insight of the presiding commissioner. He must be a man who can quickly discern the truth, who is able to read human nature, who knows when to be sympathetic and when to be uncompromisingly stern. Whilst the court itself may be as informal as possible, dignity and decorum must be insisted upon.

For some years we have tried the experiment in the City of Calgary of having women commissioners to hear cases in which girls or women are involved. The good work of Mrs. Jamieson and Mrs. Langford, as pioneers in this department, will lead to the appointment of a great many other women commissioners. During the past year, Magistrate Murphy has received a similar appointment in Edmonton. She is taking up her work with the purpose of doing the utmost for these unfortunate girls and women. We think that there is little question but that her appointment marks a distinct advance in the work.

The time will no doubt come when, in the much larger cities, it will be necessary to have commissioners who will give all their time to this work, and be remunerated for their services. In the meantime we are fortunate in being able to secure men and women of the very highest type who are willing to do the work without any hope of remuneration, save the satisfaction that comes from doing something to help those who are most in need. We would like, therefore, to record our appreciation of these services. Special mention should perhaps be made of the commissioners in Edmonton and Calgary, who have given long hours in listening to dreary evidence, in spite of the fact that other and important engagements were awaiting them.

JUVENILE COURT COMMISSIONERS

Appointments Under The Children's Protection Act

Town.	Name.
Athabasca	Russell Edgar Bannerman.
Blairmore	James William Gresham.
Bashaw	Alfred J. Whitby.
Brooks	Charles E. Anderson.
Brooks	Leonard D. Nesbitt.
Bassano	Robert Sherritt.
Camrose	Henry Philip Foucar.
Calgary	Alexander McTaggart.
Calgary	T. A. P. Frost.
Calgary	F. D. Beveridge.
Calgary	John McAdam Sharpe.
Calgary	Alice Jane Jamieson.
Calgary	Annie Elizabeth Langford.
Coronation	Aremis Towns.
Clareholm	William McNicol.
Cardston	Josiah Austin Hammer.
Coleman	Edmund Disney.
Consort	Charles Henry Noble.
Cowley	A. J. Snyder.
Cowley	D. R. McIvor.
Chauvin	Thomas Armour.
Daysland	David Davidson.
Delia	Archibald John Campbell.
Donalda	Arthur L. Harvey.
Edmonton	Percy Henry Tucker.
Edmonton	Robert Belcher.
Edmonton	H. Allen Gray, D.D.
Edmonton	Rev. D. G. McQueen.
Edmonton	Rev. Ivor J. E. Daniel.
Edmonton	Rev. Michael Murphy.
Edmonton	Emily F. Murphy.
Fort Saskatchewan	John Paul.
Foremost	John Edward Charters.
Gleichen	James Leigh Laycock.
Grouard	Vernier Maurice.
Grouard	Peter Tomkins.
Hardisty	George Hedley Holmes.
Hardisty	Allen John Nicol McArthur.
Hanna	Charles Schatz Finkbeiner.
High River	A. W. Hamilton Thompson
Islay	William Berty Cairns.
Innisfail	John Draught Lauder.
Innisfail	William G. McArthur.
Irricana	Robert J. Fowler.
Lacombe	Edward Montrose Sharpe.
Lacombe	George Hutton.
Lamont	Albert Ernest Archer.
Lethbridge	W. V. McMillan.
Lethbridge	J. D. Higinbotham.
Lousana	Harry George Ancion.
Medicine Hat	O. D. Austin.
Medicine Hat	C. J. Wilson.
Medicine Hat	James Rae.
Mirror	Horace J. Rymer.



MRS. MURPHY



MRS. JAMIESON
Alberta's Three Lady Commissioners



MRS. LANGFORD

Town.	Name.
Magrath	Orsin Alpin Woolley.
Mannville	Daniel B. McLean.
Macleod	Allen Ban McDonald.
Nanton	Aaron Jessup.
Olds	Samuel James Craig.
Ponoka	William K. Turner.
Provost	William Hamilton.
Peace River Crossing	George E. Macleod.
Peace River Crossing	James Davidson Jones.
Peace River Crossing	John P. Gaudet.
Red Deer	J. Wallace.
St. Albert	Walter Lewis Viness.
St. Albert	Edmund Poirier.
St. Paul des Metis	Joseph E. Cloutier.
Stony Plain	Murdoch McKinley.
Stettler	Harry Theodore Harding.
Stettler	John Phillips Grigg.
Strathmore	William Vickory.
Strome	W. E. George Hunter.
Sedgewick	James S. McDonald.
Trochu	Sidney A. de Barethy.
Trochu	Frank Barnard.
Trochu	Frank Thynne.
Viking	James S. Barker.
Vermilion	Peter B. Pilkie.
Vulcan	William Alvin Schenk.
Warner	Albert P. Veale.
Wainwright	J. W. McQueen.
Wainwright	Frank Lush.
Youngstown	James Woodman.

PROSECUTING ADULTS FOR CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

We wish to make a brief but special mention of the work which this Department is trying to do in the way of bringing to justice parents or other guardians who have contributed to the neglect or delinquency of children. It has been truthfully said that every time a juvenile stands charged in a Juvenile Court, an adult should stand beside him charged with the offence. In spite of the fact that in many instances we have found it very hard to make a complete case, we have succeeded in bringing persons who have offended seriously to justice. This is not so much to secure punishment for the particular individual as to make it known that in Alberta we have laws that protect children, and we intend to administer them in their interests.

Many Adults Convicted

During the last year 85 of these were serious offences. In a very large number of cases men and women were living together in the presence of children without being legally married. There were two cases of incest and several other serious crimes. When it is necessary to prosecute an adult for a crime against a child, one of the most serious difficulties encountered is the unsatisfactoriness of a child's evidence. In our courts a prosecuting attorney may get a very simple, straightforward story. It does not require a very clever representative of the defence to confuse a young child, and to that extent discredit the evidence which has been given. Of course, it is right that the benefit of any doubt should be given to the person charged with the offence; we think, however, that owing to the above reason many guilty parties go unpunished.

A Serious Difficulty

Persons engaged in this work soon discover a strange tendency to look upon a comparatively trivial offence as a heinous crime, and to condone the most serious crimes. Magistrates who for the theft of a few dollars do not hesitate to rob a man of his liberty for a month or a year, are disposed to be lenient with him if he goes into his neighbour's house and by his example and vicious deeds contributes to the neglect of the children there. It may be that dealing with the latter offence is comparatively new, and that it will soon be regarded in its proper light.

List of Charges Against Adults For Offences in Connection With Children, from January 1st, 1916, to December 31st, 1916

Offence.	Informations			
	Laid.	Convictions.	Dismissed.	Withdrawn.
Contributing to delinquency	20	14	4	2
Contributing to neglect ...	74	62	2	10
Interfering with Ward ...	1	1	0	0
Incest	2	1	1	0
Carnal knowledge	7	7	0	0
	104	85	7	12

CHILDREN'S SHELTERS

Since our last report, the fourth shelter in this province has been opened. After some consultation with the officers of the Children's Aid Society, and the members of the council in Medicine Hat, an agreement was reached that the shelter which was commenced two years ago, should be completed. At this writing it is in full operation, and is one of the most complete and up-to-date institutions in the province.

A shelter is not intended to be a permanent home for children ; it is only a gateway or vestibule to something better. Into these

A Shelter Not a Permanent Home

homes there come children who have known little or nothing of comfort or convenience. In them they get the first lessons in how to live in company with other people, how to eat properly, dress and wash and care for themselves. A few months ago there came to the shelter in Edmonton three boys. When bedtime came the nurse in charge succeeded in putting them to bed only after physical force had been used. A half-hour afterwards she returned to the dormitory and found the lads on the floor wrapped in their blankets. The fact is that these three boys, although ranging in ages from 7 to 11 years, had never seen a bed, and did not know how to sleep comfortably in one.

Coming out of filthy homes, many of these children are in a pitiable plight, and in some cases it takes literally days, or even weeks, to see them properly cleaned up.

Our shelters now are giving particular attention to the physical well-being of the children. Every child received is examined by a physician, and immediate steps are taken to remedy such defects and ailments as it may have.

Medical Attention

During the year we have had opportunity of visiting these institutions repeatedly, and wish to express our appreciation of the work accomplished by matrons and their assistants. The task is a difficult one. Their charges range in age from mere infants to boys and girls of 16 or 17 years. They have to know how to deal with the helpless, dependent little children, and also with case-hardened delinquents.

Matrons' Responsibilities

We think the time is not very far distant when these classes will be separated. In addition to caring for children who may be made wards of the Society or Department, these institutions have proved very valuable in rendering temporary assistance to families who, through sickness or some other mishap, find it impossible to give their children the proper care. Again and again we have responded to calls of physicians who have stated that a mother was compelled to go to the hospital immediately for treatment, and had nowhere to leave her children. This kind of work may be a little aside from the duties of a shelter as prescribed by law, but we feel that it is within our province, and such assistance as we can render in these cases is always cheerfully given.

We would like also to commend the attitude of the School Boards in Calgary and Edmonton. Each of these has provided a school teacher for the shelter. It was found that children who are in the institution for a few weeks or months, gain but little in going to the public school where regular classification has to be made. The shelter teacher does a large amount of individual work. This enables a boy or girl whose schooling has been neglected, to get a good start while detained in the shelter. We cannot think of any teachers who are doing more for the future of the country than those who care for the education of the dependents and delinquents in the city homes.

Although it is difficult to maintain a home-like atmosphere in a place where the population is changing as rapidly as it does in these institutions, every effort is made to make them as "homey" as possible. Theatres, picture shows, and many kind personal friends have, by their thoughtful care for these little tots, contributed greatly to their happiness and good cheer.



Shelter Infants Taking a Sun-Bath

REPORT OF MATRON OF CHILDREN'S SHELTER, EDMONTON

*(MRS. GEORGEA BATE)

A. M. McDONALD,

Superintendent of Neglected Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

SIR,—

In submitting my Annual Report I wish to state that never in its history has the Children's Shelter been better cared for than during the year 1916. The Shelter Committee were most attentive and interested in the condition and welfare of the children, and their visits were very helpful and an inspiration to the staff. At the suggestion of this committee, the City Council twice very generously furnished money to provide what we call "emergency clothing," to meet the needs of children who are temporarily detained in the Shelter. This clothing remains in the Shelter as stock.

The children have been amply provided with food and clothing, and are as respectably and comfortably turned out as any children in the city; requisitions for clothing being promptly given by the City and Department of Neglected Children.

Many simple cases of illness were treated at the Shelter, and a number of contagious diseases sent to hospital. Fifteen infants died during the year, the greater number the victims of whooping-cough or measles. Twenty-six operations of various kinds were performed.

Day and Sunday School have been carried on, a great boon to these children, also they attended church services under careful guardianship.

Christmas was a very happy time, and the children were generously supplied with toys, games and books by the Children's Aid Society and by donations from the many friends and well-wishers of the Shelter, and were splendidly entertained by the Hotel Macdonald management, Rosary Hall, and the Empire Theatre, and a grand dinner and Christmas tree at the Shelter.

Number of children dealt with	787
Boys	437
Girls	350
City Children	395
Boys	231
Girls	164
Government Children	392
Boys	206
Girls	186
Number of children under one year	111
Number of children 2 years and under	104
Number of delinquent children	88
Boys	58
Girls	30
Number of children admitted	410
New entries	352
Number of children discharged	399
Number released to parents	174
Placed in homes for work	119
Adopted	41
Placed in Industrial School	8
In Convent	5
In Social Service Home	6
Enlisted	3

Ran away	4
Sent to Hospital	24
Died	15
Number of children in Shelter at end of 1916	32
Total Shelter days	12,094

Religious Denominations

Roman Catholic	278
Presbyterian	103
Methodist	100
Church of England	61
Lutheran	35
Greek Catholic	28
Baptist	20
Undenominational	162

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed)

Mrs. GEORGEA BATE.

REPORT OF MATRON OF CHILDREN'S SHELTER, CALGARY

(MISS M. L. CLINT)

A. M. McDONALD,

Superintendent of Neglected Children,

Edmonton, Alberta.

SIR,—

During my third year as Matron of the Calgary Shelter, I have found the work very interesting and the experience gained therefrom most beneficial.

The health of our children during the year was good. We had an epidemic of measles in the summer and in the fall a light epidemic of chicken-pox, but which we were able to eradicate. This, of course, is not startling when one takes into consideration the influx of children, the majority of whom come from homes in which contagion follows closely in the wake of bad sanitary conditions.

Our babies continue to be a source of interest in our work. The regrettable part to us is their adoption, when perhaps we have become too fond of them. Of course, our regret is overcome by the satisfaction of knowing that they are each given a chance to start life on the same basis as the average child.

One of the unpleasant features of the work with which I have lately come in contact, but which I know has not been general in our Home, is moral perversion. By this I mean girls of more mature years contaminating the younger girls' minds with obscene stories, many of which one would hate to think originated in a young girl's mind. To me, a child is the symbol of innocence, and it is unfortunate that they must come in contact with girls of this type.

As in a home, Christmas plays a prominent part in the life of a child, so it has always been with our children, and the last one was no exception, the public being very generous in their donations. Holidays we try to make specially attractive by some fore-planned pleasure, oft-times our generous-hearted citizens contributing. The smiling, happy faces of the children were ample reward for any extra trouble.

Much credit is due to the staff, all of whom have the welfare of the children at heart.

We are indeed fortunate in having such a kind and considerate committee, all of whom are indefatigable workers in looking after the interests of the children, and we heartily endorse their perspicacity in reinstating our President, who is ever "The Children's Friend."

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) MILDRED L. CLINT,

Matron Children's Shelter.

REPORT OF MATRON OF CHILDREN'S SHELTER, LETHBRIDGE

(MISS GRACE A. DAINTY)

A. M. McDONALD,

Superintendent of Neglected Children,

Edmonton, Alberta.

SIR,—

I beg to submit the following report of work in the Shelter during the year 1916:—

Children admitted to the Home	34
-------------------------------------	----

How Disposed of

Foster-homes	9
Domestic Service	1
Returned to parents	9
Industrial Home	2
Boys ran away	2
Sent to Edmonton	1
Boys sent to work on farms	2
Children still in Shelter	8
	34

Ages

1 year and under	6
2 years and under	2
4 years and under	2
6 years and under	2
7 years and under	2
8 years and under	2
9 years and under	4
11 years and under	1
12 years and under	2
13 years and under	4
14 years and under	4
15 years and under	4
16 years and under	1

Religion

Roman Catholic	8
Lutheran	6
Salvation Army	3
Baptist	5
Greek Catholic	2
Methodist	2
Presbyterian	2
Religion not known	9

Nationalities

Russian	6
German	4
Hungarian	4
Slav	4
English	4

Scotch	4
American	4
Norwegian	3
Austrian	2
Icelander	1
Swiss	1

In the last five years two hundred children have passed through the Shelter, and we have our first and only death to record this year—a five months old baby, who died from meningitis. We were quarantined for chicken-pox once this year. We were fortunate in this respect because there have been a number of children's diseases prevalent in the city.

The smaller children have been bright and nice looking, therefore have found good homes. One tiny baby, almost starved to death, grew strong enough to be placed in a foster-home, and now is a very good-looking child and idolized by his foster-parents. Another, who was supposed to be deformed and an idiot, grew strong and learned to creep, and soon gave us to understand that he was a suitable baby.

Children over 5 years of age, have attended the Central School regularly. Sometimes a child says when he first comes to the Shelter, "I don't want to go to school," but after he has attended school a few days it would be a great disappointment to him if he were kept home even for illness. The teachers always take a kind interest in them. One boy, fifteen years of age, played truant one day, but that was the only case to my knowledge during the year. Their reports have been satisfactory.

During the summer months, they take long tramps over the coulees for wild flowers. In winter they amuse themselves with story books and games. With few exceptions the conduct is good. They help with the work, each child doing a little. Thus they soon learn to be clean, obedient and polite.

Without exception, the children placed out this year have found superior homes; one girl is specially fortunate in being given the opportunity to learn music and painting.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) GRACE A. DAINTY,

Matron, Children's Shelter.

THE WORK OF PROBATION OFFICERS

When a police officer arrests an adult on a criminal charge, presents his evidence to the court and secures a conviction, he has discharged his full obligation as far as that particular case is concerned. When a

Probation Work

Children's Aid agent or probation officer investigates home conditions and brings his evidence to the Juvenile Court, his work has simply begun. In the majority of instances, juvenile offenders are, for the first offence, placed upon probation. That means that the officer must keep in close touch with the home and with the child. He must acquaint himself with the hours that the boy keeps, the companions with whom he associates, and the amusements in which he indulges. He must be able, by his sympathetic comradeship, to give the boy a better outlook on life, and by practical advice and help to his parents to so influence his surroundings that it will be possible for him to "make good."

For some years now we have emphasized the necessity for volunteers to assist in this work. Some two years ago, in the City of Calgary, under the leadership of the Boys'

Volunteer

Probation Officers

Department of the Y.M.C.A., a probation committee was formed. Men of character and standing in different parts of the city volunteered to act as "big brothers" to any of the boys of their particular section of the city, who might appear in the Juvenile Court. These men had the satisfaction of seeing the greater number of these boys permanently reform. The Roman Catholics of Edmonton have a similar committee, and have accomplished some good work. There is, however, room for the volunteer services of many others. In many of the smaller municipalities police officials, school teachers, and others have been asked by commissioners to act as probation officers, and their work has been fully appreciated.

This is essentially a work based on the individual temperament, characters, associations, and home surroundings. The

Individual

Attention

Necessary

methods successfully used in one case may meet with complete failure when applied to another. In every case patience is necessary. The average delinquent has been well grounded in the ways of deception. Habits once formed cling with stubborn persistence. Yet it is being constantly demonstrated that beneath the veneer of lawlessness, there are good qualities which only need encouragement. The probation officer must not be weak or sentimental. While expressing the sympathy of a father or brother, he must represent the majesty of the law.

During the past year some 159 boys were placed on probation. It is gratifying to report that in 95 per cent. of the cases the method proved successful.

Special attention is being given to the supervision of girls in the "teen" age. In four of the cities of this province, women probation officers have been appointed, and the Department also engages a travelling matron. There are, perhaps, more discouragements and difficulties in connection with this work than with that of any other branch of children's relief.

The majority of these girls are placed at housework or some other kind of service. The women probation officers seek by their friendly counsel and advice to assist them in overcoming the temptations that come to them in their efforts to make a living.



As she appeared when picked up by
our travelling matron



Three months after

The most important task is not in finding work for the girl, but in placing her in an environment that will help her to look at life in a different way, in making her feel that here is a chance to regain her position in society. Many of these young women are prone to become discouraged; they feel that they are "down" and disgraced. That has been impressed upon

Giving the Delinquent Girl a Chance

them from many sources. This means that the women probation officers must seek to give them a new outlook on life. In addition to that something must be done to interpret the delinquent girl to the community. Society may look upon her as fallen and lost, she can be helped, she is very much the same as other girls that you know, there is very little difference, but that she is unfortunate and has "gone down."

Of course there is a point beyond which it is almost impossible to bring back, as demoralization is so complete, but at the first stages reclamation is possible. The part of the probation officer is to interpret the girl to the community, so that society may take an interest in the work, and be ready to assist rather than make her road more difficult.

In addition, many of the girls are placed in their own homes. In a number of cases the task is a double one, first to care for the girl and second to do what is possible to rehabilitate the home. The majority of these homes are abnormal, and the main problem is to deal with the family in as distinct and definite a way as possible.

In order that the readers of this report may have a better idea of the difficulties surrounding this work, and of what is actually being done, we are appending to this chapter the reports of the matrons in charge of this work in the three larger cities.

Reclaiming the Home

REPORT OF THE WOMEN PROBATION OFFICERS FOR CITY OF EDMONTON

MISS ANNIE M. JACKSON and MISS A. V. DORWAY.

A. M. McDONALD,

*Superintendent of Neglected Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.*

SIR,—

As the work of the Probation Officer continues about the same from year to year, there seems but little to report in the way of new features for the year 1916.

Lockwood has drawn up the following as "Childhood's Bill of Rights," i.e.:—

"To be born right,

"To be loved,

"To have his individuality respected,

"To be trained wisely in body, mind and spirit,

"To be protected from evil persons and influences,

"To have a fair chance in life."

So many children have been denied these very essentials, and some of them lose all that is worth living for almost before life is well begun. The Woman Probation Officer's work is to try to restore to the girl in her 'teens as much as she can of these "Rights" which have been denied her, and to help her to "win out" in her uphill way to good citizenship and womanhood.

Many of our girls may be classed as delinquents, but it must be remembered that the majority of them are not really to be held responsible because they have been surrounded with evil, vicious, immoral influences, and they know no other way. One feels that it is the delinquent parents and other adults who should be punished or placed on probation. I hope that the day will come when we will have a Court of Domestic Relations, by which adults may be more completely and suitably dealt with.

The delinquent, in some cases, is the girl whose parents through ignorance, incapability, misunderstanding or misdirected effort are unable to control her.

There is also the class which we speak of as the dependent. The dependent girl comes to us because of circumstances over which she has no control, perhaps no one is to blame, and is thrown upon the kindness of the world. This girl needs only kind, thoughtful guardianship, which is very easy to provide for her.

It is necessary that almost all of these girls earn all or part of their living. This can be best done in private homes with the kind but firm, if necessary, motherly helpfulness and supervision which so many splendid women give to those whom they employ. The younger girls we place in homes where they are clothed or paid a reasonable amount of money in return for light duties out of school hours, while attending school regularly. Older girls at housework receive wages according to their capacity to earn. A few others are in other lines of occupation, such as attending business college, learning dressmaking, tea room work, laundry work, clerking in stores, etc.

The question of the girl's amusement is as important as is the question of her training. The spirit of the young calls for light, music, activity and comradeship, and it is often in her search for these that she meets with the chance acquaintances and influences which lead her away from the straight path.

Our Cottage has been a most valuable asset in point of convenience and helpfulness to the work. This is the social centre, so to speak, and we can, with our "ever open house" provide much in the way of entertainment. The Cottage is also constantly used for business calls and interviews outside of office hours. The work requires all that one can put into it of time, thought and energy. We are also indebted and grateful to the many persons and institutions, heretofore mentioned, who have given great kindness and assistance to the work.

During the year we were privileged to assist in the greater or lesser degree about 250 girls and women. Of these 65 were wards of the Department by Court's Order, and were constantly under supervision. The balance received frequent or occasional assistance.

In all 219 places were secured, divided in the following way:—

For younger girls with light home duties while attending school....	31
For older girls with light home duties while attending Business College, learning dressmaking, etc.	3
Domestic work	82
Other kinds of work	19
Under supervision with parents or relatives	29
In various institutions or with friends	29
Out of office investigations in answer to complaints, or for information or consultation	577
Interviews with girls and adults at the Cottage, out of office hours..	116
Trains met for or with children and girls	53
Trips escorting girls or children to places of work, to institutions, etc.	257
Trips escorting girls or children to or from Supreme Court, Police Court or Juvenile Court	142
Visits with girls to doctors and dentists	60
Calls of business re money matters, newspaper announcements, transportations, etc.	98
Meetings attended for purpose of giving addresses or in interest of children's work	14
Shopping tours with or for girls	70
Calls at Cafes, Hotels, Cabarets, Dance Halls, Picture Shows, etc...	37
Visits with girls while at work, in institutions or while ill.....	70
Times girls were entertained	108

These times of entertainment took the form of visits and entertainments at the Cottage, of which there were 93, with Meals, Club Meetings, Concerts, Lectures, Picture Shows, Swimming Classes, Skating Parties, in friends' homes, a visit to Government House Grounds, the Horse Show, when 68 were entertained, and the Edmonton Exhibition, when 60 were entertained.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) ANNIE M. JACKSON.

(Signed) ADA V. DORWAY.

REPORT OF THE WOMAN PROBATION OFFICER FOR CITY OF CALGARY

(MRS. EFFIE H. BAGNALL)

A. M. McDONALD,

Superintendent of Neglected Children,

Edmonton, Alberta.

SIR,—

It gives me great pleasure to submit to you my report for the year 1916. Although we have not had so many girl cases to deal with, we have been kept busy. Dealing with girls is a problem that requires the most careful study. Each girl needs individual attention—no two girls have the same disposition. Few people have any conception of the number of girls who come voluntarily to us for help, both moral and financial. It is sad to think how many children miss the real home, and have to do without help and advice from their parents.

It is really astonishing how little care and attention is given by some parents to their children, it being tiresome and troublesome very often for them to do their duty. The lack of physical

Careless Parents nourishment, proper food, cleanliness, wholesome sanitary conditions and sufficient clothing, is not only responsible for a great deal of unhappiness, but directly contributes to delinquency. About the saddest kind of home we enter is that in which the mother turns from the path of right to evil-doing. Living in sin herself, she does not bother what becomes of her daughter, indeed, she sometimes starts her daughter into the same kind of life, and from our experience we find that girls who come out of such homes are very, very hard to win back to the right way of living. In many cases we meet with success, but in some others with failure. Our work at times is most disappointing, still there is the bright side, which braces one up to go on and do everything possible to help the young girls growing to womanhood. If indifferent parents could only be made to realize this duty in relation to the training of their girls, how much it would lighten our work! They have been given daughters, and what more noble duty could a woman undertake, than to raise up these little girls to be good, noble women, and equip them to battle with the world? Very often a girl is sent out from her pure country home to the city, to face life there, without being warned of the dangers and temptations to be met with. I think every mother should advise her daughter as to the great snares and temptations of city life. Mothers! do not send your daughters out into the world unprepared, and who is better able to teach and warn a girl than her own mother?

The women with whom we place girls at housework are always willing to co-operate with and help us by a special interest in the girls committed to their care. As in years past, the Matrons of the Social Service Home have given us great assistance in admitting to this Home girls whom we felt wanted daily help and guidance, and keeping them there till they could be conscientiously discharged.

We have not placed so many girls at housework during the past year, there are not as many girls coming to the city, and there are many opportunities for girls nowadays to get other positions, and the average girl likes any kind of work better than housework. In securing work for a girl we seek for something that will be conducive to her welfare, and see to it that her surroundings are good and wholesome, and that she has good companions. As the power of example is the most potent factor, surely no responsible parent or guardian would want a child

placed in a home where there is swearing and drinking, and deception and fraud, and yet this is the environment many a child has, in his or her own home. The best way to improve a boy or girl is to improve his or her environment, and this is what we always aim at.

We always impress upon young people that they must take up work of some kind when they are finished with school, as idleness is the root of all evil, and all of us are much better and happier to have some definite work to do.

The following is a list giving details of the disposal of girls: —

Placed at domestic work	72
Under supervision in their own homes.....	19
Left City	7
Attending school	13
Married	7
Working in stores	7
Business College	2
Placed in Social Service Homes	11

138

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) EFFIE H. BAGNALL,

Probation Officer.

REPORT OF THE WOMAN PROBATION OFFICER FOR CITY OF LETHBRIDGE

(MISS GRACE A. DAINTY)

A. M. McDONALD,
Superintendent of Neglected Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

SIR,—

More effort is being made by churches and young peoples' societies to uplift young girls. The Salvation Army has started "The Life Saving Guard," and I know of cases that we could not induce to attend a church or Sunday school becoming intensely interested in their work.

The trains are all met by a careful woman, and young girls are specially cared for.

The various churches employed the services of an accomplished lecturer on social problems, to give talks to young girls. The schools took the matter up, and had the lady give several lectures in the Central School to girls from eight to twelve years of age and from thirteen years up. A suitable talk was also given in the Steam Laundry.

The girls of the Bible Class of the Knox Presbyterian Church are going to sew for the Shelter. This will undoubtedly awaken the interest of these earnest young women in their less fortunate sisters. There are popular agencies that are questionable, if not degrading. May I mention a few? (1) Low class literature, for instance. I called on a young woman (married, but only fifteen years of age), and asked her if she would like to do some sewing for her home to make it more inviting, and she smiled and said, "I read so much, I haven't time to sew." She told me the titles of the books recently read, and she was leading a life very similar to the stories she had read. Sad to tell, she is now serving a term in the Macleod Prison. Were the books partly to blame for this? (2) Postcards: I will not attempt to describe some that are in daily circulation among the young people. (3) Picture Shows: Some of the pictures shown are not quite free from evil suggestions. The advertisements for shows are worse.

Two of our older girls were married. One of these has been a ward of the Government for five years, working for the same family all the time, until she was married a few weeks ago to a

The Older Girls respectable well-to-do farmer. We are told that she is a good housekeeper and a very estimable young woman. The other girl, who was married in June, is a good, thrifty young woman, and respected by all who know her. She and her husband have a home of their own and are comfortably off.

A young girl was sent from one of the smaller towns in the early part of the year, supposed to be unmanageable, but her slight peculiarities are gradually disappearing. She began to earn her own living in June, earning ten dollars a month in domestic service. Out of this she has clothed herself neatly, paid forty cents a month to the Patriotic Fund, embroidered her own bed linen and underwear, and deposited twenty-one dollars in the P. O. Savings Bank. She is contented and trustworthy, and we have little fear for her future. Other girls, who have not been made wards, are also doing well.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) G. A. DAINTY,
Probation Officer.

REPORT OF PROVINCIAL TRAVELLING MATRON

(MISS JENNIE ROBINSON)

A. M. McDONALD,
Superintendent of Neglected Children,
Edmonton, Alberta.

SIR,—

I beg to submit herewith my Annual Report of the work carried out in my branch of your Department for the year ending December 31st, 1916.

I have been privileged to help 91 girls during the year; of these 47 are wards, 32 of whom were directly under my care. Nine were placed in institutions, six were given into the care of the city officers. Of the 44 who were not wards, 21 were under constant supervision, and 23 girls were helped temporarily.

During the year the work of my Department has grown very much, so that had it not been for the co-operation of the ladies with whom the girls were placed, it would have been impossible to have done the work with any degree of success at all. With several of the girls the work has been very difficult and discouraging, teaching the necessity of patience and study of each girl's particular weakness, also her early training and home conditions, for in so many cases the young lives have been terribly marred or broken before they come in touch with our Department. Many, however, respond readily to kind, careful treatment, and in these cases it is a constant pleasure watching them develop.

I am pleased to report having visited, with a very few exceptions, all of the older girls under my care living in the rural districts at least once during the year. I have enjoyed it very much, and I feel that we understand each other better, and it will make it easier for me to help or advise them when necessary. Getting acquainted and talking over difficulties with the ladies who have the girls in their homes has been very beneficial. In a few cases I have found that the girl was only in the home because the woman wanted a cheap maid; no thought or consideration was given to the girls. In these cases the girls were removed from the homes at once. It has been a constant surprise to find how really selfish in this regard people can become.

In visiting foster homes where the younger children are placed, I have received every courtesy. In most cases the people have been delighted to have me call in order to let me see for myself how the children were developing. I have been very much pleased with the treatment they are receiving, while in a few cases conditions were unsatisfactory, and the children were removed.

Wards changed	106
Calls made on wards	313
Calls made on other girls	43
Cases investigated	81
Number of times shopping with wards	26
Number of calls at doctors' offices re wards	55
Calls re placing girls, etc.	46
Girls dealt with	91
Wards dealt with	47
Mileage covered by rail on above work	6,922
Mileage covered by trail on above work	486

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) JENNIE ROBINSON,
Provincial Travelling Matron.

FOSTER-HOMES

It was no doubt fortunate for the Department that it came into being about the time when the custom of retaining children for long periods in institutions was being given up. We were, therefore, able to start upon a new and more up-to-date system. Ever since the inception of the work it has been found comparatively easy to place all normal and well-developed children in suitable private homes. This is in the interests of the children. As a result we have none of what are known as the

Home-Placing



Well cared for in a Foster Home

“institutional” type, such as are produced in places where strict rules are enforced during every hour of the day. A child develops normally under normal conditions, and the only normal condition for a child is a good home. During the past year we placed some 470 children. To do this satisfactorily entails a great deal more work than may be apparent on the surface. Applications for children must be carefully sifted. We insist upon references being sent us from a clergyman, a physician, and two acquaintances. If these do not prove in every way satisfactory, the application is simply declined.

We have found, however, that no matter how careful or exacting we may be in trying to get definite information by correspondence, there is a danger of being deceived. At the present time we are making arrangements so that our foster homes may be visited prior to children being placed in them. This we think will save the necessity of taking so many children out of homes after they have once been placed.

Foster-parents who apply for young children have, as a rule, no selfish purpose to serve, and about 95 per cent. of children placed under 10 years of age are fortunate in getting into a good home where love and attention are shown them. We find, however, that we have to scrutinize more carefully applications for children from 10 to 15 or 16 years. Adult labour is scarce, and there are some people who do not hesitate to over-burden a growing girl or boy. During the last year we have had little complaint to make, but in two or three cases we discovered treatment that can only be described as cruel. In each

Young Children Well Placed



Just Like His Foster-Father

case the conditions, as our inspectors saw them, were placed before the Juvenile Court and the offenders dealt with.

At the present time we have scores of applications for children of this age, which we are unable to fill. We find it possible to secure for bright boys and girls a very fair wage. In most instances the bulk of this money is placed to the credit of the ward, so that when he or she has reached the eighteenth birthday, and the Department has no more control, there is sufficient in the bank to provide a moderate start.

Distances in Alberta are great, the cost of inspection is large, but we do not hesitate to spend the money necessary to reach these homes, in order to make sure that our wards are receiving proper care. We find it necessary to keep up the inspection for some considerable time, as changes come to many homes, and neglect and little cruelties creep in.

We have found a disposition on the part of some people to offer unnecessary sympathy to boys and girls placed in country homes. For the most part this sympathy is misplaced. There is no doubt that many farmers are actuated by self-interest in taking these children, but there is no reason to make complaint as long as the child gets good chance to attend school, a good example in decency, and has a comfortable place in which to live. Many boys who found it impossible to withstand the temptations of city life, and made but little advancement in the schools with elaborate equipment, are doing well in the country, show no further tendency to delinquency, and are making good progress in the little country school.

Unnecessary Sympathy

In the case of younger children sent to these foster-homes, we make an agreement covering the period up until the child is 18 years of age. We seek to protect the foster parent from any interference which may be made by any relative or former guardian of the child. We respect the wishes of the

Agreements Protect Foster- Parents

foster-parent in every way, so that the child will come to look upon his foster-home as his own. The hope is, that when the eighteenth birthday is reached, the child will feel that there is a definite tie binding him to the people who have come to regard him as they would their own flesh and blood.

In the case of older children, we are now adopting the principle of making the agreements only for one year. This does not mean that the child is moved about from year to year, but we are able to take cognizance of any change that may come in the homes or in the children. If everything is satisfactory, new agreements can be made at the end of the year; if not, the child may be removed without any further discussion.

We have very frequently had occasion to express our gratitude to foster-parents for all the pains they have taken in their endeavours to give these unfortunate children a fair prospect in life. In some cases there is a disposition to expect too much from mere children, but in the great majority of instances the foster-parents have shown immense patience. We believe that in many of these the children will live to show their gratitude for all the kindness that has been lavished upon them.

SAMPLE LETTERS

" . . . I think it has been fully six months since I wrote you about the little boy. He enjoys excellent health and is growing nicely, and is one of the finest little fellows to be found anywhere. He is getting much easier to control, has a good loving disposition. We think everything of him, and he is just the same to us as our other children. He has handsome features and is really good-looking, and very clever and intelligent. We could not do without him now. He and our two little girls get along as well, I think, as any children do, and they all love each other. He is always anxious to see papa come home; he thinks there is no one like his papa and mamma and his two sisters. He is rather shy with strangers at first, but soon becomes acquainted with those who notice him . . . "

" . . . Although our little girl is scarcely over two and a half years, she speaks very plainly, saying practically anything she wants in a very intelligent manner, and sings many popular songs. This child undoubtedly has a talent for music, and we are anxiously waiting the time when she may be old enough to start her musical education. This little girl has not only won her way into our hearts, but has become a great favorite in the community, and is, in our opinion at least, loved by all who know her. We were in Calgary this winter, and it was our intention to call at your Department to enable you to see her, but owing to a delay in trains we were unable to do this. However, we will be in Edmonton during the U.F.A. Convention week, and hope then to have the privilege of calling on you. I wish you to inform me if it will be necessary for me to make a will in favour of this little girl to properly protect her, or if, in case of our death, would she receive our property in the same sense as she would even if she were our own child? . . . "

" . . . With pleasure I write these few lines to let you know that my little boy is hale and hearty and growing fine. I am sending him to school just as soon as it gets warmer, in the spring. He is a fine child, and I will have to get a child about 10 years old to go with him for the summer, to mind him. . . . "

" . . . Christmas is over, and our little girl received many nice Christmas gifts. She is in the best of health, hasn't been sick so far. She brings happiness to our home, and I wouldn't like to be without her. . . . "

" . . . Just a few lines to let you know how our girl is getting along. She is getting to be a fine big girl, and is growing fast and is in splendid health, and is talking about most anything, and keeps us (her papa and mamma) happy every day, and sure is lot of company to us, as we wouldn't want to be without her, and don't believe that she would want to be without us, as she is a very loving girl. Everybody who sees her is surprised how smart she is. She hasn't been sick all summer. . . . "

" . . . Am sending in a report of the little boy whom we adopted. He is strong and happy, and the need of writing this is the only reminder we have that he is not of us. We are so contented and satisfied and are about to take the trip east to our parents for the holidays, and am writing that you may know of his whereabouts. Hoping we have

complied with your Home's wishes, and am grateful for our little blessing. . . ."

" . . . Once more the time has come to report about our precious charge. I am thankful to say she is in the best of health and enjoying life to its full extent; we are as proud as ever of her. She has a wonderful memory. . . ."

" . . . Our little boy is a dear, lovable boy, and we would not part with him for half a second, lend or anything else. He is so bright and intelligent and the very life of our home. I am afraid we spoil him a little, as we are so fond of our little fellow. We were never blessed with any children, so that you can almost understand how we feel towards him. . . ."

" . . . In regard to our little girl, I wish to say she is well, happy and doing nicely, in fact appears so much like our very own little girl that I almost forget we owe a report to the Home at Edmonton. She learns very fast at school, is very fond of reading, and has read many books besides her school books. One year from the month she first began to read from her primer, she had read fifteen books,—some of them third grade library books, and one of her teachers said they had never had another pupil that could tell a story that she had read as well as she could. . . ."

THE PROBLEM OF THE INSTITUTION

During the last decade, sociological workers have discussed the value of institutional care and its effects upon child life.

Portage la Prairie Industrial School

Whilst the Department places its greatest emphasis upon home finding, and believes that every normal healthy child should find a place in the home life of the community, it of necessity makes use of certain institutions. During the past year, 19 boys were committed to the Training School at Portage la Prairie. These boys had failed to make good as probationers or in private homes, and were as a last resource sentenced to a term in the Industrial School. Under the superintendency of Mr. F. W. McKinnon, the very best is being done for these boys. There is none of the prison atmosphere about the place; there is little to distinguish it from the ordinary boarding school. Under the direction of the superintendent, a Junior Republic has been organized and discipline is largely in the hands of the boys themselves. In addition to studying the regular work of the school curriculum, each boy is expected to spend a part of his time in learning some trade. It is the belief of the Department that if we take two years out of the life of a boy, we ought, at the end of that time, to send him back into society better equipped to earn a livelihood and to make his way. In this respect the institution at Portage la Prairie is rendering us great assistance.

For our delinquent girls we make use of such Social Service Homes as there are already established in this Province. Catholic girls are sent to the Home of the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity. Protestant girls go either to the Social Service Home, Edmonton, under the Methodist Church, or a similar

Social Service Homes

institution in Calgary, under the direction of the Presbyterian Church. We have nothing but the highest praise for the character of the work being done in these homes. It must be admitted, however, that in every case the facilities are limited. There is great need of an institution under some direction that will make provision for certain classes of inmates. As we see it, there should be accommodation for four distinct classes: A, older delinquents; B, younger girls who are immoral; C, immoral girls who have contracted disease; D, girls who are not immoral but incorrigible.

It is quite evident that girls who have for the first time stepped aside from virtuous paths, should not be thrown into company with hardened prostitutes. It is equally certain that diseased girls should be segregated and given the long—but we understand successful—treatment for the cure of their bodies.

Cases Should be Separated

Then, there is a class of incorrigibles who, if given their freedom, are almost bound to go astray. These girls should be supervised, but should not be thrown into the company of any of the

previous classes. We think, too, that provision should be made in such an institution for teaching girls, in addition to the rudiments of housekeeping, such trades as millinery or tailoring, and we would suggest in the case of those far enough advanced in their studies shorthand and typewriting. It is not fair to segregate a girl for the best two or three years of her life, and allow her to leave no better equipped to solve the problem of earning her own living, than when she entered. Too many institutions lay too much stress upon preparing girls for domestic service. No doubt this is the best that can be done for many of them, but experience shows that domestic service is not the safest place for others of them.

A committee which recently made investigations into the reason for the moral downfall of 600 girls, found at one time in the institutions of Philadelphia, has called attention to the danger of this kind of employment. In one home it was discovered that 75 per cent. of illegitimate children had mothers who had been in domestic service. The committee adds: "The evidence in this direction is so clearly against the generally advanced opinion that industrial life stimulates immorality, and shows so clearly the dangers of occupation as domestic servants, that we cannot admit the advisability of training girls in institutions, only or mainly for domestic service, and it is our belief that some work along the lines of placing these girls in legitimate industrial occupations under supervision for a period of time, is necessary in order to place them in a regular industrial environment."

PLACED IN REFORMATORY INSTITUTION, 38

Male	19
Female	19
	<hr/>
	38

Offences (Male)			
Incorrigible	6	Salvation Army	1
Theft	13	Roman Catholic	5
	<hr/>	Greek Catholic	1
	19		<hr/>
Nationality (Male)		Age (Male).	
English	6	Ten	1
Scotch	1	Eleven	1
Canadian	1	Thirteen	5
French-Canadian	1	Fourteen	4
American	4	Fifteen	3
Russian	1	Sixteen	3
Swedish	1	Seventeen	2
Halfbreed	1		<hr/>
Greek	1		19
Austrian	2	Offences (Female)	
	<hr/>	Immoral	7
	19	Incorrigible	10
Religion (Male)		Theft	2
Church of England	5		<hr/>
Methodist	2		19
Presbyterian	2	Nationality (Female)	
Baptist	2	English	1
Lutheran	1	Scotch	1
		Irish	1

Canadian	3	Roman Catholic	6
French-Canadian	3	Greek Catholic	1
American	3	Jewish	1
Hebrew	1		
Swedish	2		19
Austrian	2		
German	2		
		Age (Female)	
		Thirteen	1
		Fourteen	2
		Fifteen	8
		Sixteen	7
		Seventeen	1
Religion (Female)	19		
Presbyterian	5		
Methodist	3		
Baptist	1		19
Lutheran	2		

MEDICAL CARE

Ever-increasing emphasis will have to be placed upon providing proper medical and dental care for the wards who come to us. The majority of these children come from homes where, either through poverty or neglect, they have never received necessary medical attention. We have to deal with almost innumerable cases of tonsils, adenoids, defective vision, defective hearing and other ailments peculiar to children of this type. In addition to this we have found it necessary to provide for the treatment of more serious diseases.

During the last year there came to us a boy of 13 with a very cumbersome club foot. After examination, Dr. Dean of Calgary told us that the foot and limb could be straightened. This has necessitated three serious operations, but the prospect is that his limb will become quite straight. The boy himself is pleased with the result, and the Department feels that they have done him a splendid service.

A Serious Operation

A large percentage of the girls with sex experience who have been committed to the Social Service Homes have contracted venereal disease. This entails a long and expensive treatment. We cannot see, however, how a girl can be given a second opportunity to make good in life unless this condition is cleared up. At the present time we have a number of girls undergoing this treatment, and in some cases it will have to be continued for months.

Venereal Diseases

In addition to this, there are the numerous accidents which are bound to occur in a family as large as ours.

We would like here to make mention of the very kind and unselfish way in which physicians of the province have dealt with us. Were it not for the fact that many of them are ready to serve the needy boys and girls without any idea of remuneration, the comparatively small grant given us would not begin to cover the work.

"A sound mind in a sound body" is a good ideal to keep before one in dealing with children. Our belief is that the sound body is the only foundation on which a sound mind can be built. Not only does ill-health affect mentality, but in many cases it leads to immorality and crime. The clear flowing of rich blood in the veins is a safeguard to many a boy and girl.

A Good Motto

TWO UNSOLVED PROBLEMS

MENTAL DEFECTIVES

Without doubt the presence of a large number of mental defectives is making more acute the problem of this Department. There is hope, however, that before very long an institution will be opened in Red Deer under the direction of the Educational Department, which will care for a considerable number of these unfortunate children. Scores of applications came to us during the year 1916 from parents who were almost distracted with grief, owing to the fact that it was impossible to give proper care to the defective children in their homes, and that no suitable place was

Large Number of Defectives Reported

open to them. The number of these enquiries would lead us to think that one institution such as is contemplated will not by any means solve the problem. It is not for us to decide what course should be adopted, but we believe that the matter must be taken up in some very definite and comprehensive way. Imbecile or idiot children can only be cared for and protected against themselves. Mental defectives should, on the other hand, be trained so as to be able to earn their own livelihood. Numbers of instances have been brought to our attention which emphasize the necessity of placing not only children, but also mentally defective adults, in some kind of institution. Recently we investigated a home where the mother and her oldest daughter, both mental defectives, were about to become mothers again. It would seem a pity that such an instance could be discovered; the offspring are almost sure to be mental defectives or worse.

There is little question that a great number of mentally defective children inherit or easily acquire criminal tendencies and habits. Among the delinquent boys and

Tendencies of Mental Defectives

girls dealt with by this Department, there is a large percentage who cannot be said to be normal. Some of them have traits in their natures for which they are as unaccountable as they would be for a club foot or a deformed hand.

Particularly sad is the case of young girls who easily become the victims of the human fiends who would prey upon them. We

Mentally Defective Girls

can readily recall a number of instances where these unfortunate girls, still in their early 'teens, talked quite glibly about their illicit relations with boys and men. They did not seem to have any of the natural reserve of the normal child. That society should take no steps to protect itself from

them and their offspring is little less than suicidal. "Human life," says the Hon. Jacob H. Hopkins, "is a great stream. If one per cent. of the population is feeble-minded, the stream is being contaminated daily by the unfolding of these defective instincts, and by the propagation and preservation of the same." Scientists claim to know that mental defectives are more prolific than any other people. They have the minds of children and the passions and impulses of adults. If we allow them to marry and procreate, the thing that has been going on through all the centuries will continue to go on. The courts will continue to deal with them. Social agencies will continue to supervise the defective children of these defective parents, unless we can devise some means to cure the cause of such conditions.

Stop the Stream

MOTHERS' PENSIONS

During the last three years, we have been very much impressed with the fact that in a great many instances, widows, or otherwise handicapped mothers, have, through the stress of their life, been compelled to give up their children. It was impossible for them to perform the double burden of bread-winning and home-making. It must be quite understood that we do not in any case take children simply because the parents are poor. On the other hand, in many of the homes referred to, things go from bad to worse, the mother's health fails, there comes a time when it is difficult to distinguish where neglect really begins, and as the protection of the children is, after all, the first concern, it is found necessary to separate them from the mother.

Handicapped Mothers

Not very long ago, the mayor of a municipality in Central Alberta wrote us with reference to a woman with eight children. The municipality had been supporting her for some considerable time, and was evidently getting tired of the expense. After investigation had been made by our inspectors, we wrote saying that we could not see our way clear to take the children from their mother, whose only offence was poverty. We think we were right in our decision, but the problem was not solved. The children in that home will not, in all probability, receive proper care and sustenance.

A Typical Case

It is our opinion that the woman who rears a family of seven or eight boys and girls to efficient manhood and womanhood has rendered the State very effective service. It is only right that the State should recognize her contribution by some fair remuneration.

Worthy of Recognition

At the present time in 28 States of the American Union, and more recently in the Province of Manitoba, this problem is solved by a system of mothers' pensions. We hope that the time is not far distant when deserving mothers will not live in constant fear of being separated from their children, but will rest secure in the surety that their value to the community is recognized and that their children will not be robbed of an opportunity of growing up in their own homes.

THE PROBLEM OF THE ILLEGITIMATE

"The penalties which are exacted of unmarried mothers and their pitiful offspring are barbarous in a humane society; they do not conform to the modern idea of justice."

Illegitimate Child Unjustly Treated

In these words the editor of a Chicago paper called attention to the problem of the illegitimate. There is little doubt that in the past society had exacted a too severe penalty from the innocent, and that for no good reason. Experience shows that the illegitimate child does not necessarily carry with him any sting or stigma, that it is quite possible for him to be turned into a thoroughly good and efficient citizen, capable of taking his place in any department of society or business.

During the year 1916, some 93 illegitimate children passed through the care of this Department, and have been placed in satisfactory foster-homes, where they will no doubt become a part of the environment in which they are placed. There is reason to believe that the majority of them will yet fill useful places as members of our Canadian society.

During the last year we were frequently asked concerning the effects of war conditions upon this problem. For many months,

Not Many "War Babies"

in various parts of the world, we heard a good deal about "the war baby." For some time it must be frankly confessed, it appeared that there would be a great increase in the number of children born to unwedded mothers. Notwithstanding this fact, the number of illegitimate children for whom it was necessary for us to care was not as large as in the preceding year.

A great number of these unfortunate mothers are making a desperate effort to maintain their own children, in a few instances the fathers are assisting them. In this connection we would like to commend the work that is being done by the Beulah Home, Edmonton, the Holy Cross Hospital, Calgary, the Misericordia Hospital, Edmonton, and the Salvation Army Home in Calgary.

Society does well to offer protection and care to the unfortunate young mothers who may have been so ruthlessly wronged.

Making Fathers Responsible

While a great injustice is done to the mother, we have yet failed to discover any really efficient means of laying the full responsibility upon the father. In nine out of every ten cases the mother suffers both the stigma of disgrace, and the responsibility of maintaining the child. It would seem only fair that the law should hold the father equally responsible with the mother for the maintenance of the child. There should be some legal means of collecting from him without entailing too much publicity.

The Norwegian law declares that both the father and mother of an illegitimate child are fully liable for its support. Some such provision should be made in this country. The father of an illegitimate child should be compelled to do something for the woman, both before and after the birth of the child. The legal stigma of disgrace should be lifted from the innocent child, and it should be made an heir of its parents' property. This would seem to be a practical programme, providing nothing but justice for both mother and child.

We are not blind to the great difficulties that surround the problem, difficulties in the way of getting satisfactory evidence, preventing blackmail, and of finding proper places for the care of the children. Even these difficulties should no longer be allowed to place any serious injustice upon the innocent.

In connection with this problem we have discovered that the method of some of the foreign element of the population, of marrying their daughters, has led to a great deal of unhappiness and to the birth of large numbers of illegitimate children. Forced into union with men for whom they have no natural affection, after a time many of these girls become tired of the association, the homes are separated, propositions are made to them by men whom they can admire and perhaps love. Marriage is impossible, and they consent to live together without any legal formalities. From such homes as these a fair percentage of the illegitimate children come.

A Bad Custom

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

"An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure." This old adage should never be forgotten. It is a good thing to look after the poor drab; and the scarlet girl who has fallen, but it is infinitely better to discover the conditions in society which are responsible for her kind and eliminate them.

It is a good thing to carry flowers to a fever patient, but it is much better, if possible, to discover the source of infection and remedy it. To bind up the wounds of travellers who have been attacked and have fallen by the wayside is humanitarian, but it is much more fundamental to provide for the policing of the way, so as to offer adequate protection to pedestrians.



Good Citizens in the Making

For that reason we are glad to note that Children's Aid Societies and kindred organizations are giving steadily more attention to educational campaigns and are rendering assistance to such movements as are destined to prevent delinquency and crime.

During the last year, in the City of Edmonton, a movement was started in connection with the Y.M.C.A. which we think is prophetic of a great deal of genuine help for boys. Citizens of good standing in the community, and known to be liberal, were asked to pay the membership fee of one or more boys, and to take a personal interest in these boys. The result was that the Department was asked to furnish the names of a good number of lads who had come under our notice. We believe that their association with this good-fellowship club has wrought wonders for them.

A Good-Fellowship Club

There is need, too, that society should undertake to provide some kind of sane and wholesome amusement for boys and girls in their 'teens. Ennui is bad for them, and many of the cheaper amusements are anything but wholesome, the genuine good amusements in the cities or towns are often much beyond their reach in price, and the result is that they have no safe place in which to satisfy their natural longing for amusement, recreation and fun.

Sane Amusement an Essential

What is true of the cities is even more true of the country places. We have discovered many little spots where there is absolutely no wholesome amusement for young people. The leaders of these communities, we think, could do no better service than to organize in some simple but effectual way, recreation for the young people.



A Discontinued Playground; an Example of "Penny-Wise and Pound-Foolish" Economy

We wonder if the time is not dawning when society will not allow this natural instinct of our young people to be commercialized as at present. Why could not our cities and smaller communities take up the matter and provide for amusements which would be advantageous and necessary? They could easily be made to pay their own way, and there would be no danger of the illicit or immoral creeping into them.

Why Depend on Commercialized Amusements?

The organization of Boy Scouts and Boys' Clubs in connection with the various churches, has done much to guide otherwise mis-directed energies. They are restraining hundreds of children from launching into the ways of crime. In emphasizing the standard efficiency lists, the Y.M.C.A. are doing a far-reaching work. There is something about the movement that appeals to the manly instincts of the young boy, and draws out the very best that is in him.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The thanks of the Department are due to the Hon. C. W. Cross, Attorney-General, who has always shown a sympathetic interest in the work for children.

To the various organizations throughout the Province, which have studied the children's problem and have co-operated with us in seeking how to solve it.

To the homes which have received as their own the homeless and destitute children who have been made wards of this Department.

To the Royal North-West Mounted Police of the Province, who have always been ready to lend their assistance and active co-operation in enforcing *The Children's Protection Act*. It would have been impossible to accomplish much of the important work without the aid of this organization. The officers commanding the different divisions have, without exception, given us their whole-hearted sympathy and support.

To the municipal police forces in this province, who have rendered us much valuable assistance and co-operation.

To the institutions throughout the province which have received and cared for many children, with whom it would otherwise have been impossible to deal. Special mention should be made of the Social Service Home in Calgary, the Social Service Home in Edmonton, the Beulah Home, Edmonton, the Lacombe Home at Midnapore, the Youville Convent, St. Albert, and the Sisters of the Home of Our Lady of Charity of the Refuge, Edmonton.

To the medical men of Alberta who have willingly given their time and skill in remedying physical defects among the destitute little ones who have come under our care.

To the various newspapers published throughout the province, for their courtesy in publishing articles which have been sent them, dealing with the problem of the child in the community, and for their assistance in helping us to find foster homes through the medium of their pages.

To the commissioners appointed in the various districts of the province, under *The Children's Protection Act*, who have willingly given their time to dispose of the cases which have come before them in the Juvenile Courts. Many of these men have found time to give to the problem of the neglected and delinquent child, in spite of large business interests. They have given their time gratuitously, and have done much to aid in solving many of the problems confronting the Department.

To the various churches and organizations of the province, which have given us their hearty co-operation, and have, by throwing open their meetings to the Department, enabled the plea for the betterment of the conditions of the child, to become more widely known, in many instances interesting people who, otherwise, would have never heard of the work which is being done for the dependent and delinquent child of Alberta.

